



# Idaho FFA Association

November-December Issue

*\*Learning to Do    \*Doing to Learn    \*Earning to Live    \*Living to Serve*

## Season's Greetings >

Dear Idaho FFA Members and Advisors,

As this year comes to a close, we want to express our gratitude to all of the members and advisors for an outstanding year thus far. From the State CDE's at Moscow to the District Officer Leadership Training at Warm Lake, or the chapter visits and District Contests. Who could ever forget about the great times we had at the National FFA Convention? The dinners at the fine restaurants, the Career Show, the Keynote and Retiring addresses, Churchill Downs and the various other sights, or even the new friends we met. National Convention has been a great highlight for the entire Association and has really inspired all of those who attended.

The holiday season gives us a chance to re-think our priorities and work on improving ourselves and whatever we might represent. The season provides a chance to have a real positive effect on our communities in a time where aid may be needed most. We hope all of you to can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to serve and hope that it will make your holiday that much more special.

We are excited, and hope everyone else is excited, about all of the upcoming events. We also look forward to meeting many of you during our visits to your chapter.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

*-Idaho State FFA Officers*



### A Half-Minute with Michelle Jenkins

- Hometown Chapter:* Kuna
- Birthday:* November 16, 1984—19 years old
- Favorite Television Show:* "Friends"
- Favorite Dinner:* Barbequed Ribs
- Favorite Animal:* Labrador Retriever

- Most Admired Person in History:* Jesus
- If you were a candy bar, what would you be and why?* Anything chocolate, because it's sweet and irresistible and everyone loves it.
- What's the highlight for your year as State Sentinel?* Meeting FFA members and helping them realized their potential.
- Where are you going to school?* Currently attending ISU and majoring in Business Marketing.
- What are your future aspirations?* To be the 1<sup>st</sup> Woman President, ha ha ha.

### FFA Achievements

- Freshman:    -Joined FFA  
                      -Attended Little "T"
- Sophomore:    -High Individual in State Dairy
- Junior:        -WLC  
                      -State Dairy team  
                      -Received State Degree
- Senior:        -Won State Farm Bureau  
                            Speech Contest (I beat Trent)  
                      -4<sup>th</sup> Place in State Prepared  
                      -State Floriculture Team & Hi Ind  
                      -State Parly Pro Team  
                      -Elected State Sentinel



## ***Quote of the Month***

***Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday.***

***-John Wayne***

## **North Idaho at National Convention**

The North Idaho District was well represented at the National FFA Convention this year by the Troy, Genesee, and Kendrick Chapters. Troy and Genesee both brought competitors to the convention and Kendrick was there to lend support to them as they represented our district and the state of Idaho in the Creed Speaking and Ag Sales CDEs.

Gentry Jenkins from the Troy chapter took third in Creed. Brother to our State Secretary Katie Jenkins, Gentry continued Troy FFA's tradition of success and made our district proud. Genesee's Sales team, consisting of Megan Barber, Stacy Olsen, Clay Long, and Julia Esser, took 12<sup>th</sup> overall with several good individual placings as well. These Chapters have worked tirelessly to prepare for their respective events and their hard work was rewarded at the National Convention with these honors. "The Troy and Genesee advisors (Braun and Doherty) should be commended on getting their students to the National Convention where they competed at a higher level and proved they have what it takes to be leaders in our district," said North Idaho District, and Kendrick FFA Chapter, advisor Erica Guhlke.

Aside from competing, the chapters participated in other activities throughout the convention week including workshops, convention sessions, the career show and of course, the FFA shopping mall. The Kendrick Chapter took the Star of Louisville Boat tour on the Ohio River, and the Genesee Chapter

attended the early show at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, the night before they caught the plane back to Spokane Sunday Morning. The Kendrick and Troy Chapters attended the Late show the same night. These are among many other activities during the week, which include: tours of the Louisville Slugger museum, Concerts, sightseeing around Louisville, and dining out.



Overall, the North Idaho District's National Convention experience was a positive one, filled with success, fun times, and memories. Thanks again for another great year in the FFA!

*-Destinie Roberts, North Idaho District Reporter*

## **The Career Field**

*Dennis Conley is the Vice President of Basic American Foods, and this is what he looks for in an employee.*

What I look for in a person who is applying for a job at the completion of a Bachelor of Science degree. My focus would be typical of an Agribusiness firm that either processes food products or support production agriculture (banks, suppliers, government, etc.)

In general I like to look at people who have majored in Ag Econ or Ag Business because they have been exposed to the basics of

business in agriculture and have a much broader exposure to the various disciplines.

The five general areas that I use to guide my interviews and selection process are:

1. **Solid Basic Education.** Does the candidate have a good basic education? Did they take a broad cross section of courses that pertain to business and agriculture? Were their grades acceptable, something in the 3.0 GPA or better range? A person needs to be acceptable in this area before their resume gets enough attention to get an interview or have the next four questions asked.

2. **Work History.** I like to see that the person has worked some during high school, college summers or even while going to college. This shows me that they know how to work and hopefully enjoy working. It is not so much what they did, but that they have developed good work habits and have learned how to work with other people.

3. **Leadership Skills.** I like to see that a person has been involved in clubs or organizations during high school and college and have taken a leadership role. This shows me that other people respect them and they have a natural talent to lead others. I am always looking for people who can bubble up in our organization and be our future leaders.

*-Dennis Conley, Vice President of Basic American Foods*

### **Featured Activity**

As the holiday season is now upon us it is a time for many of us to thank those in our lives that have done so much for us. It is a time to not ask "What is in it for me?" but it is a time to ask, "What can I do for you?" It is a time to look at the gifts we have been given and be thankful for this. Of course these gifts are accumulated over the year, and often times the

holiday season is a time for us to thank the ones that support us.

The FFA is no different from the rest of society; we must show our appreciation for those that help our teams, chapters and state succeed. Many chapters do this by having some sort of meal function and inviting supporters to partake in the delicious food. Trent Van Leuven and I had an opportunity to attend an event just like this that the Kendrick FFA hosted this event.

On Sunday December 7, 2003, Trent and I headed out to Kendrick, Idaho. It was a short 25-minute ride, filled with icy roads and steep hills. Once we arrived we were greeted by several of the Kendrick FFA Officers and were seated to talk with some supporters from the Kendrick Community. It was amazing talking to some of the people that know so much about Northern Idaho. We were fed a delicious breakfast and looked at some of the beautiful poinsettias.

Kendrick used this breakfast to show off their accomplishments of the year and thank their supporters for all that they have done for their FFA chapter this year. Nice job Kendrick FFA and congratulations on a successful year.

*-Matt Woodington, State Vice President*



### **New Delegate Process at SLC**

The Idaho FFA Association is a strong organization with a rich history and a bright future. To help this future continue to shine for its members changes are needed. One area of change that the Idaho FFA is working on is the delegate process at the State Leadership Conference (SLC). As an organization, the Idaho FFA Association wants to illicit greater





## **The Best of National Convention**

member engagement in the delegate process.

Dynamic, new issue-based committees are being developed to replace the old, stale program-based committees thus engaging the delegates in contemporary, meaningful issues. To develop this process, issues must emerge from the local and district levels that are relevant to the membership and the organization.

Every member, every chapter, every district is being given the opportunity to bring to the forefront, an issue that concerns them. Submission of that issue must be done by January 9, 2004 so that the Idaho FFA Board of Directors can then prioritize those issues and present them to committees at SLC. If your chapter has an issue that they want to see addressed by a committee, please fill out the Delegate Submission Form that can be obtained from chapter advisors or district presidents. This form then needs to be returned to your district president so that it can be presented to the Mid-Winter meeting of the FFA Board of Directors on January 9, 2004.

After the key issues have been identified, we will invite official chapter delegates to serve on a committee they are interested in. (If no interest is expressed, then delegates will be assigned to various committees.) These committees will develop a report that will be presented on the delegate floor at SLC for action by the official delegates. The reports will then be forwarded to the Idaho FFA Association and the Idaho Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association for appropriate response. This will then be compiled into a final feedback report and shared with delegates, chapter leaders and other relevant stakeholders for consideration and/or action.

The main focus of this new delegate process is to create an exemplary democratic experience. A chance for the voice of everyone to be heard in our association. As an FFA member, don't miss this opportunity to contribute to this new delegate process.

Hello FFA. Once again the time we like to call National Convention has come and gone. As I am finally getting caught up and back to normal I decided it was time to finish this up as well. Our trip started at 6:00 a.m. on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>. I staggered onto the bus on 3 hours of sleep, more of a "power nap" than anything. We made our way through Yellowstone, Jewel Cave, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, the Sears Tower, Shedd's Aquarium, and, to satisfy the girls on the trip, a mall in Chicago. This was all before we got to Louisville. While we were there we hit a horse farm in Lexington and the Ford Motor Company.

Oh, I almost forgot. As if all that stuff wasn't fun enough we had the opportunity to attend the Convention. I think the most awe inspiring sight of the whole trip was here. As a FFA member sang "God Bless America" every person in the 30,000 member audience stood up. Not only was it a beautiful song, it was humbling and wonderful to see that so many people still care. I also liked the National Officer's retiring address where he stated that we are constantly putting up or taking off boards that make up the house that represents our life. It was a blast to talk to new people and to see different ways of life.

I always find it fitting that as we head west to get home, we visit the Gateway Arch—a monument to all those who made the trip west



with no other hope than to find a better way to live. Not far from what we are doing as we secure our educations, we are simply trying to find a better way to live. I hope that as all those

who went peer back through the haze of late nights and fun, we realize that there was something more to learn than simply how to have fun 2/3 of the way across the country, because there was. I hope the delegates from this year look back and remember what they did learn, and I encourage all FFA members who have it within their means to do so, to go on the trip. There are so few times in a person's life where he or she can learn so much or do so much. I have gone 4 times, and I have learned something every time.

*-Devin Fielding, SUSR District President*

### **A Glance back at National Convention**

National Convention was a very uplifting and rewarding experience. Those of us that had the opportunity to go, now have so many memories that we will never be able to forget. These memories could have come through the motivating speakers or through all of those people we came in contact with. There were so many memorable experiences at National Convention for me—and I am definitely very thankful for the time to reflect on my life and see what I can do better.



Retiring addresses from the national officers is one of the many things that will always stick with me—all of the six officers retiring addresses were very good and because I had the opportunity to get to know two of the national officers very well, Dustin Clark and Seth Heinert, their retiring addresses were especially very touching.

Another highlight was seeing 50,000 members at the convention, because it helped me gain a bigger and better appreciation for our organization. From these 50,000 members, we as state officers looked for the members and advisors from our home state, and by doing so came in contact with some of the high caliber people that represent our state so well.

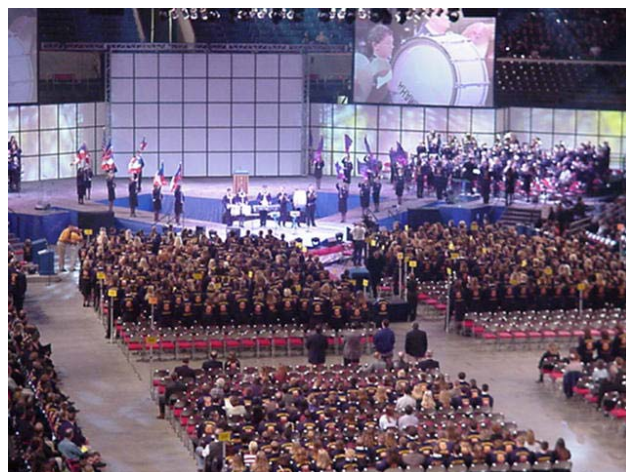
The climax for the National Convention was the opportunity that I had to place the Idaho box in the time capsule. The excitement was overwhelming—to think that I was taking part in FFA history! I know that I will be certain to put that memory in my own time capsule so I can show my children years down the road.

Each of us has different memories of the 75<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention. I only happened to scratch the surface of the ones that I have, and I must say that the one thing that changed my life at the Convention was the people that I met. Everybody influences the people that they come in contact with; I know that everyone that came in contact with me made a positive impact. I was very fortunate to meet so many members and I hope that I made a positive impression on them also.

*-Jason Fellows, State Treasurer*

### **A Look at the National Delegate Process**

The National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky was held just last week (Oct. 27 – Nov. 2). The National FFA Organization is one of the largest youth



organizations in the United States and in the world. With over 464,000 members, the National FFA Convention is a time when many FFA members join together from all over the U.S. to compete in a variety of CDE's, competitions, and just to enjoy the trip and conference! Over 50,000 members and guests were present at the FFA Convention. I had an opportunity to be a National FFA Delegate at the convention.

On Tuesday morning all of the delegates came together to discuss many of the pressing issues sent in by states from all over the U.S.. Usually FFA State Officers become delegates and form committees over a variety of issues to be solved at the FFA National Convention. States such as Texas, California, Ohio, etc., had many more delegates than Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, etc., because the larger states needed more representation. There were about 500 delegate members and seven committees total. I served as a delegate of the Issue Committee: "FFA – What does it stand for?"

As a National Delegate there are many sources of information that are given to you to research and form an opinion on. From Tuesday morning to Thursday evening; delegates would spend hours talking, speaking, discussing, debating, giving oral testimonies, etc., on the specific issue that we needed to be resolved. My committee spent a lot of time listening to oral testimonies, using our parliamentary procedure



meeting skills, having many heated debates, and even moving into small discussion groups to talk to each

other personally on how we feel about the issue. The delegate process took a lot of time and patience, but overall it was very fun, exciting, and interesting. My committee felt pretty much unanimous in that the National FFA Organization needs to keep the acronym FFA

and continue having the FFA acronym stand for nothing other than "Future Farmers of America". Everyone voted in favor of keeping the FFA acronym and its meaning.

The National FFA Organization is our organization's title and name, but using FFA and its meaning "Future Farmers of America" is still what the organization claims and calls itself to be. Our traditions, pride, foundation, and public recognition as the FFA – Future Farmers of America will never end and will always be used and honored.

The National FFA Convention was absolutely amazing! Being a National Delegate was an incredible experience. I really felt I was learning more not only about having productive meetings, discussions, and resolving many FFA issues, concerns, and problems; but I also got to use and practice some parliamentary procedure. It is really wonderful to be a member of an organization that not only consists of students, but that all of the decisions made about the FFA organization is made by the students. Leaders, rules, laws, and changes are all made and selected by the students. That's how it needs to be. One mission: Student success!

The 2003 National FFA Convention was such a blast; I truly had such a wonderful time. I barely got any sleep the week I was there. I went to almost every session, and I felt I had accomplished many tasks, overcome problems, and FFA issues that I needed to make solutions for. It was also a wonderful time to get to know my Idaho State FFA Officer Team better and build closer relationships with them. I feel as a team we are all very close, good friends and I am very proud to be serving with them. We have so much to do this year and hopefully we will be able to get all of our goals accomplished as our year progresses.

*-Katie Jenkins, State Secretary*



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## **FFA Trivia**

The State Degree Sifting is approaching for many—and for that here are some Trivia Questions that may turn up.

1. Who is the National FFA Advisor?
  2. Who is the US Secretary of Agriculture?
  3. Who is the father of the FFA?
  4. Which year were females allowed to join?
  5. Who is the National FFA President?
  6. Which law opened up the opportunity for Vo Ag classes to start up?
  7. List all nine districts in the State of Idaho.
  8. The State Board of Directors is comprised of \_\_\_\_\_
  9. Who is the Executive Director for the Idaho State FFA Foundation?
  10. What is the 4<sup>th</sup> line in the Motto?
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## **State School Board meeting**

Every year some members of the State Association are invited to attend the Annual Idaho State School Board Association convention. This year I was proud to attend along with Katie Jenkins as it was held at the Coeur d' Alene Resort Hotel.



Through the entire week of the twelfth through fifteenth of November, we did our best helping out with registration, setting up, acting as parliamentarians, or even catching bids at the scholarship auction. I believe that the most hilarious part of the week must have been Greg Claassen as he did his ventriloquist act—I could never explain how funny he really was, but I did spot some people who blew a gut with laughter.

***“The Idaho School Board Association Fall Conference went wonderfully. It was a busy three days with many business meetings, helpful workshops, great and motivational speakers, senators, and representative speakers, delicious meals, auctions, career fairs, games, and many interesting and fun activities and experiences.”***

***–Katie Jenkins, from her November 24<sup>th</sup> Journal Entry***

It was great to work with the ISBA, and we want to thank Terry Schwartz and Barbara Collins and the rest of the ISBA Officers and Staff for the opportunity to attend. Also, we want to thank all of the members for the good work they do representing the FFA—all of the school board members we met were very proud of all of you.

*–Trent Van Leuven, State Reporter*

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*A big thanks to the Shoshone FFA Chapter for the pictures from National Convention that are showcased in this November-December Issue.*

*To send your pictures or ideas in for the State Scrapbook, Slideshow, or Newsletter; please mail to Trent Van Leuven at:*

*797 N 2850 E, Roberts, ID 83444 before January 12<sup>th</sup> or*

*PO Box 3065, Moscow, ID 83843*

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| <p>1. Dr. Larry Case, 2. Anne Veneman, 3. Henry Groseclose, 4. 1969, 5. Javier Moreno, 6. Smith and Hughes Act, 7. North Idaho, Western Idaho, Boise Valley, North Magic Valley, East Magic Valley, South Magic Valley, South Upper Snake River Valley, Southeastern Idaho, North Upper Snake River Valley, 8. The State FFA Officers, State Advisor, State Coordinator, Nine District Presidents, 9. Rick Waitley 10. Living to Serve</p> |
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**Idaho FFA Association**

